

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2019 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Infrastructure and Security

CS/CS/CS/HB 905 — Department of Transportation

by State Affairs Committee; Transportation and Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee; Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee; and Rep. Andrade (CS/CS/SB 1044 by Appropriations Committee; Infrastructure and Security Committee; and Senator Albritton)

The bill addresses various issues relating to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Specifically, the bill:

- Revises the FDOT’s authorization for innovative highway projects to include innovative transportation projects demonstrating innovative techniques of bridge design.
- Prohibits a local government from adopting standards or specifications for certified aggregate materials that are contrary to the FDOT’s standards or specifications, with an exception for certain multicounty independent special districts.
- Prohibits a local government from adopting standards or specifications that are contrary to the FDOT’s for permissible use of reclaimed asphalt pavement material in construction, and provides that such material may not be considered solid waste.
- Prohibits a contractor who is not pre-qualified and in good standing with the FDOT as of January 1, 2019, and who has not satisfactorily completed two projects, each in excess of \$15 million, from bidding on FDOT contracts in excess of \$50 million.
- Prohibits an entity from performing both design and construction engineering inspection services for a project funded by the FDOT and administered by a local governmental entity, with an exception for seaports.
- Increases the dollar value of claim amounts for additional compensation arising out of an FDOT construction or maintenance contract that may be submitted to the State Arbitration Board to up to \$1 million per contract at the claimant’s option or up to \$2 million if the parties agree.
- Extends the FDOT’s obligation to reimburse a local governmental entity for the direct actual operating costs of the fire station at mile marker 63 on Alligator Alley; requires a local contribution from the entity operating the fire station; caps the amount of reimbursement in any state fiscal year; and transfers the ownership and title of all fire, rescue, and emergency equipment used at the fire station to the state on June 30, 2027.
- Revises the definition of “small county” for purposes of the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) to increase the population ceiling from 170,000 to 200,000. This revision would allow continued eligibility to compete for SCOP funding by retaining or adding in the definition Bay, Charlotte, Hernando, Okaloosa, and Santa Rosa Counties.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2019.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 114-1